

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /104 W
-----084322 111758Z /42

R 111723Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7544
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06594

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINED SEASONALLY DURING MARCH

REF: (A) BONN 6253; (B) BONN 4612

SUMMARY: POLITICAL QUARTERS HAVE ACCEPTED THE SEASONAL
DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT DURING MARCH WITH SIGNS OF
RELIEF, BUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT
SERVICE WARNED THAT THE SITUATION REMAINS "MISERABLE."
END SUMMARY.

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1. AN UPDATED REVIEW OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS
PUBLISHED BY THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOLLOWS
(ALL TOTALS IN THOUSANDS, ALL RATES IN PERCENTAGES):

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPARISON

MARCH 78 FEBRUARY 78 MARCH 77

TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE

SEAS. ADJ. 1.024 1.023 1.005
 NON-SEAS. 1.099 4.9 1.224.3 5.4 1.084.2 4.8
 ADJ.
 MEN 584.7 4.1 688 4.9 569.6 4.0
 WOMEN 514.3 6.0 536.4 6.3 514.7 6.1
 REG.JOB 247.5 223.8 244.1
 OPENINGS
 PART TIME WORK.225.7 250.6 257.8
 TABLE (CONT'D)

TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE TOTAL RATE

FOREIGN 114.0 5.8 119.1 6.0 102.8 5.1
 WORKERS
 YOUTH 92.4 4.3 101.2 4.7 99.3 4.5
 (UNDER 20)

2. PRESIDENT STINGL OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
 SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 5 THAT IN SPITE
 OF THE SEASONAL IMPROVEMENT THE SITUATION "REMAINS
 MISERABLE". HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO THE UNFAVOR-
 ABLE DEVELOPMENT IN JOB PLACEMENTS BY THE LOCAL
 EMPLOYMENT OFFICES. THE NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS DURING
 MARCH TOTALED 195.000, WHICH WAS 11.1 PERCENT LOWER
 THAN ONE YEAR EARLIER. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS
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DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978 WAS 516,700, 8 PERCENT
 LESS THAN DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977.

3. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES WENT UP SLIGHTLY
 FROM 1,023,000 IN FEBRUARY TO 1,024,000 IN MARCH IN

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USEEC

CONTRAST TO 1,005,000 ONE YEAR EARLIER. THERE ALSO
WAS AN UPWARD TREND DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF
1978, UP FROM 1,008,000 IN JANUARY TO 1,023,000 IN
FEBRUARY AND TO 1,024,000 IN MARCH.

4. ON A REGIONAL BASIS, THE BEST RESULTS WERE OBTAINED
IN SOUTH BAVARIA (MINUS 17.0 PERCENT), AND IN NORTH
BAVARIA (MINUS 16.2 PERCENT) WHERE SEASONAL FLUCTUA-
TIONS ARE RELATIVELY STRONG. THE DECLINE WAS SLIGHT
IN BERLIN (MINUS 1.4 PERCENT) AND IN NORTH RHINE-
WESTPHALIA (MINUS 4.7 PERCENT) WHERE SEASONAL INFLUEN-
CES ARE WEAK. THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL WAS RE-
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CORDED IN NORTH BAVARIA (6.0 PERCENT), BUT THIS FIGURE
STILL INCLUDES STRONG SEASONAL ELEMENTS. ABOVE
AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS ALSO WERE REPORTED FROM
LOWER SAXONY-BREMEN (5.8 PERCENT), RHINELAND-PALATINATE-
SAARLAND (5.5 PERCENT) AND BERLIN WEST (5.4 PERCENT),
WHERE SEASONAL INFLUENCES PLAY A LESS IMPORTANT ROLE.
THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WERE IN BADEN-WUERTEM-
BERG (2.8 PERCENT) AND IN HESSE (4 PERCENT) FOLLOWING
THE PATTERN OF PREVIOUS MONTHS.

5. REACTION TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOY-
MENT FIGURES BY POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES HAS
BEEN ABOUT AS USUAL, WITH MOST OF THEM STRESSING THE
SEASONAL CHARACTER OF THE DECLINE, AND WITH SPD AND FDP

REPRESENTATIVES SEEING SOME SLIGHT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.
SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY EUGEN GLOMBIG, THE PARTY'S EXPERT
ON SOCIAL AND LABOR MARKET POLICY, URGED UNIONS AND
EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS TO NEGOTIATE A REDUCTION OF
WORKING HOURS IN FUTURE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS.
HE ALSO ADVOCATED NEW LEGISLATION TO REDUCE OVERTIME
AND TO REDUCE THE RETIREMENT AGE, PARTICULARLY FOR
DISABLED PERSONS.
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